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Huge cache of newly unsealed records detail how Jeffrey Epstein and his madam allegedly lured girls into sexual servitude

By JULIE K. BROWN AND SARAH BLASKEY OF THE MIAMI HERALD
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Lawyer David Boies, left, speaks to the press along with alleged Jeffrey Epstein victims Annie Farmer, left, and Courtney Wild, third right, during a detention hearing for Epstein in federal court in New York City on July 15, 2019. Epstein, 66, was charged July 8, 2019, with sex trafficking of minors and conspiracy to commit sex trafficking of minors. (Timothy A. Clary/Getty Images)

MIAMI — A chilling picture of how hundreds of girls and young women from around the world were trafficked for sex by Jeffrey Epstein, his madam, Ghislaine Maxwell, and — allegedly — a number of powerful business and world leaders emerged Friday in court documents unsealed in New York.

The documents, the largest cache to be released in the 13 years since Epstein's case began, offer brutal details about Epstein's trafficking of teenage girls in Palm Beach, New York and overseas — as well as Maxwell's obsessive and often abusive quest to provide him with new girls over a span of years in the early to mid 2000s.

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Virginia Roberts Giuffre, whose 2015 federal defamation suit against Maxwell was the source of the documents, provided testimony and evidence to substantiate her claims of exploitation at the hands of Epstein and Maxwell through photographs, plane logs and even a medical record from Presbyterian Hospital in New York where Giuffre was taken by Epstein after a particularly abusive sex episode.

Her story was also corroborated by an ex-boyfriend, whom she told about the abuse at the time, and another woman who worked as an assistant for Maxwell and Epstein named Johanna Sjoberg. Sjoberg, who was a college student at Palm Beach Atlantic University when she was recruited by Maxwell, said that Maxwell's primary role in Epstein's life was to provide him with young girls at least three times a day.

"He explained to me that, in his opinion, he needed to have three orgasms a day. It was biological, like eating," Sjoberg said in a sworn deposition in 2015.

The names of some prominent, wealthy men Giuffre says she was directed to have sex with are spattered throughout the approximately 2,000 pages released Friday.

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They include: the late scientist Marvin Minsky, modeling scout Jean-Luc Brunel, former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson, 71, former Sen. George Mitchell, 85, Hyatt hotels magnate Tom Pritzker, 69, and prominent hedge fund manager Glenn Dubin, 62. Giuffre has previously identified Epstein's lawyer, Alan Dershowitz, 80, and Prince Andrew, 59, as two of the people with whom she had sex.

All the men have issued denials, with some of them, including Dershowitz, insisting that they never met Giuffre. No charges have been filed against anyone other than Epstein, who was indicted last month in New York on two counts of sex trafficking. **Epstein was found dead** in Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan on Saturday. Unnamed officials have said the cause was suicide, but that has not been confirmed by the medical examiner.

Some of the testimony released Friday is difficult to read, as when one 15-year-old Swedish girl, shaking and crying in fear, told a butler who worked for two of Epstein's closest friends that she had been taken to Epstein's island in the Caribbean and ordered to have sex with him and others. The butler, in a sworn statement, said the girl, visibly traumatized, told him that Epstein and Maxwell had physically threatened to harm her and seized her passport to keep her on the island, according to the butler's statement.

Ghislaine Maxwell attends the WIE Symposium in New York City in 2013. (Laura Cavanaugh / Getty Images)

The houseman, Rinaldo Rizzo, worked for Dubin and his wife, Eva, a former Miss Sweden and founder of the Dubin Breast Center at Mount Sinai. Rizzo said that the girl was so distraught she couldn't recall how she got back to the U.S. mainland but that it was Maxwell who returned her to the Dubin residence in New York.

The cache of court documents, part of the defamation case's motion for summary judgment, also shows that in 2006, when the Palm Beach police were first investigating Epstein, he was being assisted by Maxwell as part of a pyramid-like scheme the pair operated to lure young girls from around Palm Beach County, focusing on schools, colleges and spas.

Palm Beach Detective Joe Recarey, who has since died, testified in the case that he was never able to question Maxwell, but the fact that the police had evidence of Maxwell's involvement raises new questions about why the FBI and U.S.

attorney's office in South Florida failed to pursue sex trafficking charges against Epstein, Maxwell and others.

Giuffre, as part of her sworn testimony, also states that she met former President Bill Clinton, former Vice President Al Gore and future President Donald Trump, and that Epstein once held a dinner for Clinton on his island, Little St. James, off the coast of St. Thomas.

She said in a 2016 deposition she met Trump through her father, Sky, who worked as a maintenance man at Trump's Palm Beach home, Mar-a-Lago, and that to her knowledge, neither Trump nor Clinton had any intimate contact with "us" — referring to a group of girls Epstein kept at his beck and call for sex.

Giuffre's lawyer, David Boies, said there is nothing in the Maxwell case that showed any wrongdoing by Clinton, Gore or Trump.

"We know both Trump and Clinton were associated with Epstein at various times in various ways, but in terms of what we have, there's no indication that any of the three of them did anything improper."

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The lawsuit was settled in 2017 in Giuffre's favor, Boies said. But besides the monetary settlement, Boies said Giuffre's other goal was to chronicle, in testimony and evidence, the scope of Epstein and Maxwell's sex trafficking operation.

"What the lawsuit was about is this massive sex trafficking operation which went on for years, right in front of everybody —and the way in which every institution in our society failed these girls. The courts failed them, the prosecutors failed them, the lawyers failed them, the media failed them — everyone in our system failed them," he said.

He added that even after Epstein pleaded guilty in 2008 as part of a plea deal that amounted to minor prostitution charges, Epstein served a cushy jail term and went back to his jet-setting social life. At the same time, Giuffre and Epstein's other victims continued to suffer trauma as details of his crimes spilled out over the years — and the criminal justice system continued to ignore the case.

Boies, whose firm is now engaged in a similar defamation lawsuit brought by Giuffre against Dershowitz, said that there were a lot of people who, if they weren't involved knew what Epstein and Maxwell were doing.

"I think one of the general points worth making is how many people knew about this and did nothing, and how long it went on right in plain sight, hiding in plain sight," Boies said.

Maxwell, in portions of her deposition unsealed Friday, refused to answer questions about whether she saw Epstein with any underage girls. She denied that she ever had sex with Giuffre, calling her a liar and, at one point, pounding her fists on a table during questioning.

"Again, Virginia is absolutely totally lying. This is a subject of defamation about Virginia and the lies she has told and one of the lies she told was that President Clinton was on the island where I was present. Absolutely 1,000% that is a flat out total fabrication and lie."

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Clinton has admitted that he made plane trips with Epstein as part of the charitable work of the Clinton Foundation.

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“President Clinton knows nothing about the terrible crimes Jeffrey Epstein pleaded guilty to in Florida some years ago, or those with which he has been recently charged in New York,” a statement from his spokesman, released last month, said.

President Trump has recently claimed that he was not really close with Epstein and had not spoken to him in years. Giuffre, however, said in a deposition released Friday that Trump and Epstein were good friends. She admitted that Epstein was the one who characterized his friendship with Trump and that she herself had never seen the two of them together.

Devin Broda, a spokesman for the Dubins, issued the following statement:

“Glenn and Eva Dubin are outraged by the allegations in the unsealed court records, which are demonstrably false and defamatory. The Dubins have flight records and other evidence that definitively disprove that any such events occurred.”

A spokesman for Richardson issued a statement saying that he has never met Giuffre.

“These allegations and inferences are completely false. ... To be clear, in Governor Richardson’s limited interactions with Mr. Epstein, he never saw him in the presence of young or underage girls.”

“I have never met, spoken with or had any contact with Ms. Giuffre,” Mitchell told the Portland Press Herald. “In my contacts with Mr. Epstein I never observed or suspected any inappropriate conduct with underage girls. I only learned of his actions when they were reported in the media related to his prosecution in Florida. We have had no further contact.”

Giuffre named at least two other women who were considered “sex slaves,” but said there were dozens of others who were directed to perform sex acts for politicians, businessmen and world leaders during the two and half years she spent with Epstein starting in 2000 when she was 17.

The civil case had previously been sealed by a federal court judge. The Herald, which published **a detailed investigation of the Epstein case last November, “Perversion of Justice,”** petitioned the court in January to unseal the entire case. Two other parties, blogger Mike Cernovich and Epstein lawyer Alan Dershowitz, had previously asked that certain portions of the case be unsealed.

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Giuffre has said that Epstein forced her to have sex with both Dershowitz and Prince Andrew, an allegation they both have denied. Another woman, Sarah

Ransome, said that Epstein and Maxwell directed her to have sex with Dershowitz, which the famed attorney has also denied.

The court documents revealed new details about her alleged trysts with Dershowitz, including times that she says she had sex with him on Epstein's jet and in a limo with another girl while Epstein was present. In her deposition, she also said she briefly visited Dershowitz's Massachusetts home, waiting for him with another woman in the foyer.

Attorney Alan Dershowitz leaves Manhattan federal court on March 6, 2019. (Frank Franklin II/AP)

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Dershowitz has previously told the Herald that Giuffre is a liar and that he intends to prove it at trial.

A three-judge panel agreed to release the documents in April. More records are expected to be unsealed in the future.

Miami Herald staff writers Veronica Penney and Aaron Brezel contributed to this report

A previous version of this story misidentified Metropolitan Correctional Center in Manhattan as the Manhattan Correctional Center.